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TOR: 031417Z MAY 84

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 DE RUEHC #9568 1240558  
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 P 030247Z MAY 84  
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO RUMJNG/AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY 6736  
 INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0952  
 RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3065  
 BT  
 C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129568

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
 TAGS: PREL, CH, UK, HK  
 SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION ON HONG KONG

1. (U) A RESOLUTION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS BY  
 CONGRESSMAN JACK KEMP (R-NY) ON APRIL 24, 1984 SUPPORTING  
 SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

BEGIN TEXT:

--WHEREAS THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE THAT  
 ALL PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF  
 GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH THEY LIVE, AND

--WHEREAS THIS PRINCIPLE IS EMBODIED IN THE DECLARATION  
 OF INDEPENDENCE WHICH READS THAT "GOVERNMENTS ARE  
 INSTITUTED AMONG MEN DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE  
 CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED", AND

--WHEREAS THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION IS AN  
 INTEGRAL PART OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN  
 RIGHTS, WHICH HAS BEEN SIGNED BY THE GREAT MAJORITY OF  
 STATES IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF  
 CHINA AND GREAT BRITAIN, AND

--WHEREAS THE FIVE MILLION INHABITANTS OF HONG KONG ARE  
 FACING A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE NATURE OF THEIR  
 GOVERNING AUTHORITY, UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE UNITED  
 KINGDOM'S LEASEHOLD OVER THE NEW TERRITORIES IN 1997, AND

--WHEREAS THE BEST EVIDENCE AVAILABLE INDICATES THAT A  
 MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG ARE REFUGEES FROM  
 THE MAINLAND, WHO IN LEAVING THE MAINLAND AFTER 1949  
 REJECTED THE MAINLAND GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY OVER THEIR  
 LIVES, AND

--WHEREAS HONG KONG HAS A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT  
 INTERNATIONAL IDENTITY, AND A UNIQUE AND PROSPEROUS  
 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HERITAGE AND POTENTIAL, AND

--WHEREAS THE SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT INTIMATELY TOUCHES AND  
 AFFECTS THE DAILY LIVES OF EACH INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN OF  
 HONG KONG, AND

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--WHEREAS UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, AND FRUSTRATION OVER THEIR INABILITY TO CHOOSE THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL COURSE, HAVE CAUSED MANY INDIVIDUALS AND MANY KEY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TO LEAVE THE ISLAND,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (THE SENATE CONCURRING),

--THAT IT IS THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO SELF-DETERMINATION SHOULD BE RESPECTED, AND THAT NO NEW GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE IMPOSED ON HONG KONG ABSENT THE CONSENT OF THE CITIZENS OF HONG KONG.

END TEXT

2. (C) FYI: THE DEPARTMENT LEARNED OF THIS RESOLUTION WHEN STAFFERS WITH SFRC AND SENATOR MURKOWSKI (R-ALASKA) CONTACTED US TO SOLICIT OUR OPINION ON THE MERITS OF THE RESOLUTION. (MURKOWSKI HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN APPROACHED BY KENP WITH A REQUEST THAT HE CO-SPONSOR THE RESOLUTION IN THE SENATE.) WE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY INDIGENOUS HONG KONG ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING SUCH A MOVE, THIS RESOLUTION WOULD PUT THE US CONGRESS OUT IN FRONT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AND AS SUCH WOULD SURELY OFFEND NOT ONLY THE CHINESE BUT ALSO THE BRITISH. SUCH AN UNSOLICITED ACTION BY THE USG MIGHT WELL BE VIEWED AS UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY ALL PARTIES, PARTICULARLY AS IT COMES AT A SENSITIVE TIME IN ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. AFTER ELABORATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT, MURKOWSKI'S OFFICE INDICATED HE WAS NOT GOING TO COSPONSOR OR SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION. WE CURRENTLY HAVE LITTLE TO GO ON IN ASSESSING THE RESOLUTION'S RECEPTION IN THE HOUSE. HOWEVER IT CONTINUES TO LACK A COSPONSOR IN THE SENATE. POSTS WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. END FYI. SHULTZ  
END OF MESSAGE

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